

REMARKS

The Examiner's various comments and the prior art thus far cited in the prosecution of this application have been carefully considered. The specification and claims have been amended with due regard for the prior art of record and the Examiner's comments.

Claims 1-3 and 5-23 were pending prior to the filing of this response. Six of the twenty-two remaining claims are independent claims.

Three independent claims and nine dependent claims are presently cancelled from the application. Nine new dependent and two new independent claims have been added. All of the remaining claims have been amended to more specifically define the invention and to patentably distinguish over the prior art of record. Reconsideration of the amended claims in consideration of the new claims is respectfully requested for the reason hereinafter set forth.

Claim 1 has been further amended to more specifically define the invention and now contains limitations not previously considered by the Examiner. Generally speaking, the claims are now directed to a shaving system wherein a pivot frame and a pivot assembly cooperate to establish a system axis spaced from the pivot frame and the pivot assembly and which system axis provides the pivot axis for the pivot assembly. The blade assembly pivots on and relative to the pivot assembly between first and second positions.

The claimed structures are constructed and arranged to shift the blade assembly between the first position, wherein one part of the blade assembly, such as the blade group center, is coaxially aligned with the pivot axis of the system, and a second position wherein another part of the blade assembly, such as the guard-bar, is coaxially aligned with the pivot axis of the system, all of which occurs in response to changes in the shaving forces applied to the blade assembly. Generally speaking, the structures now claimed provide all of the advantages of both a blade center pivot arrangement and a guard-bar pivot arrangement. The system is automatically operable to provide these features when and as needed during the normal shaving process.

The primary reference, Douglas et al., 4,281,456 (Douglas) discloses a razor having a handle which maintains a blade assembly in a fixed position until a force of a particular magnitude is applied to the blade assembly. At column 3, lines 65, et seq. Douglas states, "In use, the blade assembly behaves much in the same manner as blade assemblies of the type fixed and immovably connected to their handles, until a particular force level is exerted on the razor." Conversely, the blade assembly of the present invention is supported for pivotal movement at all times when the razor is in use and pivots about differing parts of the blade assembly in first and second positions.

The Douglas blade assembly, has a fixed first position and is movable to a second position. This movement has the affect of relatively withdrawing the leading or first blade edge rearwardly and behind a plane P (Fig. 10) extending from the cutting edge of the second blade to the guard portion tangent point. This motion provided by cooperation of a pivoted link 46 and a cantilever biasing member (the neck 44) reduces the angle (a) (Fig. 6) formed by a first line (b) extending through the plane of the first blade 12, and a second

line (c) extending from the cutting edge of the first blade to a tangent point on the guard portion 20. A further and more detailed description of this blade movement is found in the Douglas patent beginning at column 3, line 65 and ending at column 4, line 24.

The patent to Douglas is directed to an entirely different inventive concept than the one now claimed in the present application. Douglas provides no teaching as to how to shift a blade assembly in a razor to change the location of its pivotal axis.

The patent to Lund, 4,152,828, is directed to a razor supporting at least one blade and wherein orientation of the blade edge relative to the razor handle may be altered by manually twisting the handle. Thus, the blade may be arranged with its cutting edge normal to the cutting path to cut with a shearing action or at an angle to the cutting direction so that one side of the blade edge leads the other side of the blade edge to provide a slicing action. Once positioned the Lund blade does not move unless it is moved by manual manipulation of the razor handle. Hence, Lund provides no teaching relevant to the presently claimed concept of the invention.

Apprille, Jr., 4,756,082, cited in the rejection of the immediate prior version of the claims, discloses a razor having a disposable cartridge positioned to engage shell rocker bearing surfaces on the cartridge when the cartridge is introduced to the shell bearings on the handle. Apprille, Jr. is concerned with a system for preventing reverse insertion of the cartridge into the handle so that the shaving blade of the cartridge when rockably engaged within the grip of the shell bearings is in a shaving ready position, thereby avoiding accidental reversal of the cartridge and its cutting blades when positioned on the handle for shaving. The Apprille, Jr. cartridge is at all times pivotal about a single fixed axis

relative to the handle. There is no teaching as to how the supporting axis of the cartridge could be altered, nor is there any suggestion as to why such an alternate arrangement might be desirable. It is Applicant's contention that the Apprille, Jr. reference has no application to the claims as presently presented.

The closest prior art reference of record now appears to be the patent to Coffin, U.S. 6,442,850 B1, assigned by mesne assignments to the assignee of the present application. The Coffin patent discloses a razor having a reusable assembly and a disposable blade cartridge. The reusable assembly for use with the blade cartridge 1, shown in Figs. 1 and 2, is indicated generally at 42 and shown in Figs. 3 and 4. The disposable blade cartridge 1 includes blades, a blade supporting structure, and may also include a shaving aid. The guard element is part of the reusable assembly which consists basically of a sub-seat 14, a housing 19 and a slider 25. More specifically, the guard bar, which is a permanent part of the reusable assembly, is pivoted about a guard bar axis 16 on the housing 19. *The Coffin guard bar axis is fixed relative to the housing.* The disposable blade cartridge is pivoted about a second axis 18 fixed relative to the sub-seat 14.

An essential distinction between the patent to Coffin and the present invention is readily apparent when one considers that the guard bar axis of Coffin is fixed relative to the housing or handle of the Coffin razor, whereas an essential feature of the present invention is the ability to shift the guard bar axis from one location relative to the razor handle to another location in response to shaving forces applied during the normal shaving process. In the Coffin razor *the blades* carried by the blade cartridge *are arranged to pivot and move toward and away from the guard bar during the shaving process.* The Coffin patent does not teach or in any way suggest shifting of the guard bar and blade center axis during the normal shaving process.

In the absence of more pertinent art, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending in this application patentably distinguish over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance, absent more pertinent art.

Annotated drawings (Figs. 6-11) are enclosed herewith which add the system axis X to the drawing.

According to Applicant's calculation there is no fee due for the additional claims. However, any fees required for the entry of this amendment, may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 13-0235.

Respectfully submitted,

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